

This is an itinerary for people who want to discover the green fields, vineyards and rolling hills of the Val d'Orcia, which extends from the hills south of Siena to Monte Amiata. Here are some info and tips for you.

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### A CHIANCIANO TERME

Chianciano Terme is a town full of **thermal baths** and a great place to stay for those who want to make R&R the main focus of their holidays. You can walk through the narrow streets and capture breath-taking views on camera. The city centre, in perfect harmony with the surrounding countryside, retains a considerable amount of **green space** with its numerous parks and public gardens and offers all the climatic and tourist advantages arising from its lucky geographic position.

### B MONTEPULCIANO

The town is known as a “**jewel of the 1500s**” thanks to its Renaissance art and architecture: visit **Piazza Grande** and have a look at the tower and the Gothic façade of the Palazzo Comunale and the Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta built between 1594 and 1680 with its incomplete façade. There are also many **panoramic views** worth enjoying, especially the one in Piazza San Francesco, where you can observe the surrounding hills and the church of the Madonna di San Biagio. This sixteenth century treasure stands out in the distance welcoming anyone who chooses to spend a day strolling the streets of the village. Despite its undeniable beauty, Montepulciano is well-known internationally for its **Vino Nobile**, one of the most popular Tuscan wines in the world.

### B MONTICCHIELLO

Monticchiello is a beautiful medieval village surrounded by scenic **cypress-lined roads**. Winding your way through its rolling green hills, you'll undoubtedly feel at home in this tranquil countryside. The remains of its formidable walls and the medieval city gate are only visible to visitors when they are almost beneath the castle. The Teatro Povero, the 'Poor Theatre', is an impressive and clear sign of the town's vitality, and the people's capacity to rediscover and reaffirm themselves in a public space, confronting themes of great contemporary significance.

### C PIENZA

The construction of Pienza started around 1459 on top of the ancient hamlet and took about four years, creating a harmonious fifteenth-century town. In 1996 Pienza was declared a **UNESCO World Heritage** Site. Piazza Pio II is the hub of Pienza as all of the town's main monuments are located on this square. The cathedral tower over all the other buildings (the Pope wanted this as a sign of faith). The second most important building on the square is Palazzo Piccolomini, Rossellino's masterpiece. Palazzo Borgia is another jewel found on this square. Pienza is a romantic city because of its streets with “lovely” names such as Via del Bacio (Kiss Street) and Via dell'Amore (Love Street) and have a look at the magnificent views. Try **Pienza cheese**.

### D SAN QUIRICO D'ORCIA

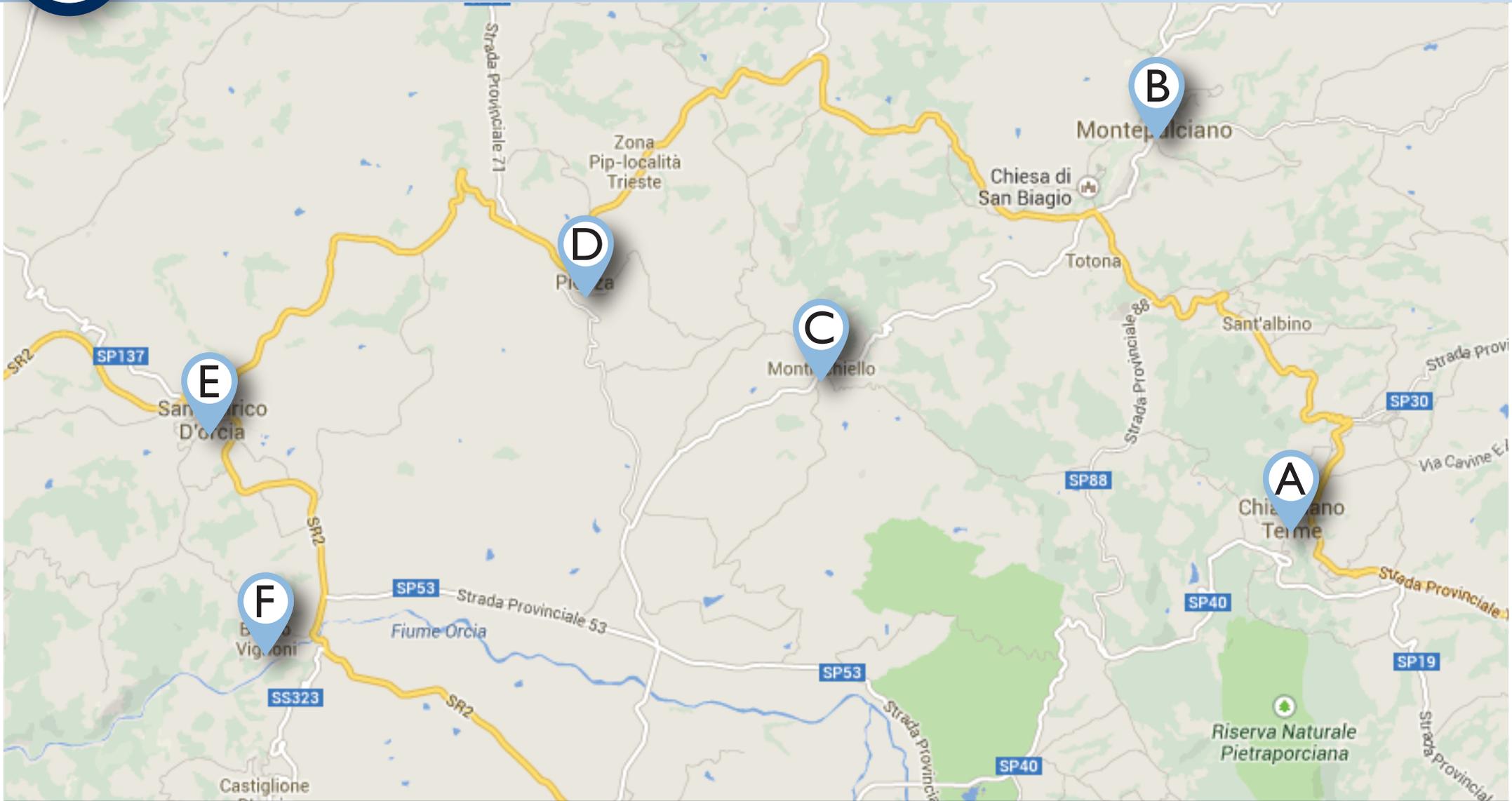
San Quirico d'Orcia is located along the **Via Francigena**, therefore it was once a place where travellers could rest, eat and pray before continuing on their way. Visit the Leonini Gardens, which occupy a large area of public space, which comprises the ancient bastions of San Quirico d'Orcia. San Quirico is a small village with a beautiful **church from 714**, a Rose Garden and green spaces within the ancient, narrow streets. Visit also the typically Tuscan **Church of the Madonna di Vitaleta**.

### E BAGNIVIGNONI

Bagno Vignoni is a popular destination known especially for its **hot springs** and the central **Square of Sources** with a 16th century tank containing thermal waters. The thermal baths of Bagno Vignoni, enjoyed by the Romans who consecrated these waters to the Nymphs, became even more popular during the Middle Ages, thanks to their proximity to Via Francigena. There are also great views on Rocca d'Orcia and on the Orcia River.



# Val d'Orcia MAP



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